

# **Progress Report on Cleanup Activities at the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site**

**West Chicago, Illinois**

**April 1996**

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## **Current Status**

Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation is conducting cleanup activities at the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site under a Unilateral Administrative Order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in November 1994. Cleanup work began in May 1995 and continued through November. U.S. EPA is overseeing the cleanup work and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety is conducting the verification testing for U.S. EPA to confirm that the properties are clean.

As of April 1, 1996:

- 140            contaminated properties have been identified by U.S. EPA. Additional contaminated properties are continually being identified.
- 44            properties have been cleaned up and fully restored.
- 12,490       cubic yards of contaminated soil have been removed.

## **Work Remaining**

Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation will resume cleanup work in April 1996 and continue through November. A project completion date cannot be estimated until U.S. EPA knows the total number of contaminated properties identified for cleanup.

## **Additional Information**

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## **Relevant Dates in the History of the Kerr-McGee Residential Areas Superfund Site**

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1931-1973	Thorium extraction facility operated at 783 Factory Street, West Chicago, Illinois.
1973	Facility closed by current owner, Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Kerr-McGee).
1984	U.S. EPA proposes the Residential Areas Site to the National Priorities List, making it eligible for cleanup assistance under the Superfund program.
1984-1985	Kerr-McGee and the city of West Chicago conduct voluntary cleanup work at residential properties in West Chicago.
1990	Residential Areas Site added to the National Priorities List.
March 1993	U.S. EPA proposes cleanup criteria for Residential Areas Site and presents the draft criteria to the community.
November 1993	U.S. EPA finalizes cleanup criteria for Residential Areas Site.
February 1994	U.S. EPA begins field investigation work at Residential Areas site.
August 1994	U.S. EPA recommends a cleanup plan for the Residential Areas Site and portions of the Kress Creek Site. The recommended plan is a non-time-critical removal action with excavation of contaminated soil.
August 1994	U.S. EPA begins a 30-day period to accept and consider comments from the public on recommended cleanup plan.
November 1994	U.S. EPA finalizes its cleanup decision and issues a Unilateral Administrative Order to Kerr-McGee to conduct removal activities at the Residential Areas Site.
May 1995	Kerr-McGee begins removal of contaminated soil from residential properties, with U.S. EPA oversight.
November 1995	First construction season ends. Forty-four (44) properties were cleaned up and restored; 12,490 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed.
April 1996	Cleanup and restoration activities resume at additional residential properties.